

THE DAILY TEXAN

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
92Low
72

Friday, September 24, 2010

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WEEKEND

FRIDAY

'Laugh for Kids'

A comedy showcase featuring eight local comedians will raise money to help kids in India fight hunger and illiteracy. Baal Dan Charities and Pratham UT will be selling tickets at the Jester center and at the West Mall for tonight's event at 6:30 p.m. in the Texas Union Theatre.

Grand Opening Celebration

Celebrate the opening of the Visual Arts Center on campus with a dinner, live music, art exhibits and performances. The party is in the art building from 9-11 p.m. and is \$30 for admission or free with a UT ID.

SATURDAY

Parkour Jam

Hang out with Texas Parkour at Waterloo Park at their last summer event as they celebrate and raise awareness of the philosophy of parkour. Food will be provided by Young Palettes and the free event is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pecan Street Festival

The annual, weekend-long event features live music, performances, food, magicians, vendors and more. The free festival attracts about 300,000 people to Sixth Street from Brazos Street to Interstate 35. Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

'Dexter' Season 5 Watch Party

Join other fans to watch the season 5 premiere of "Dexter." The free watch party is downtown at Jo's Coffeehouse on West Second Street starting at 8 p.m.

Flyleaf and Story of the Year

Alternative rock bands Flyleaf and Story of the Year take a stop in town and take the stage at Stubb's BBQ. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets start at \$15.



Quote to note

"I think sometimes people think motorcycle riders are mean. Some of those big, burly guys you see though are some of the nicest, big-hearted guys I have ever met."

— **Diane Collman**
Austin Motorcycle Riders Group

LIFE&ARTS PAGE 10

UT System leases oil land for \$207 million

By Collin Eaton
Daily Texan Staff

The UT System leased a record \$207 million in oil- and gas-rich West Texas land Wednesday to hundreds of companies and investors as the high expectations for the price of oil and technological improvements led to the top-dollar land deals.

More than 190,000 acres were leased at an average of \$1,000 an acre. The auction shattered the previous record — \$54 million in April.

In a few years, the revenue will boost payments from the Permanent University Fund to UT's endowment, providing extra money for enhanced academic programs, research competitiveness and re-

cruiting and retaining top faculty and grad students. The PUF funds UT System and Texas A&M System institutions with low-percentage payouts, which do not rise immediately when revenues or investment values increase.

Jerry Patterson, chairman of the PUF's Board for Lease of University Lands, said new technologies

that increased oil well production, as well as expectations that the price of oil will remain high, spurred the high bids for the University-owned land.

"Things are just technologically more advanced than when they put Santa Rita No. 1 over there on campus," Patterson said.

According to a statement from

the UT System, the highest per-acre bid was more than \$3,500 and the highest bidder, El Paso Exploration & Production Company, paid more than \$180 million for nearly 125,000 acres.

"We expected it to be good but not this good — breaking the re-

LEASE continues on page 2

Group raises funds for flood victims



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Elizabeth Bolton gives a Henna tattoo as members of the Fighting the Flood organization rap in the background on the West Mall to raise awareness for their Pakistan flood relief fund.

By Allison Kroll
Daily Texan Staff

Hafeez Jamali's family in Chowki Jamali, Pakistan, evacuated their village in August just before it was flooded by monsoon rains. But about 4,700 small villages like his were left stranded in the flood waters.

"All of the houses in these villages were destroyed," said Jamali, an anthropology graduate student. "The crops and wildlife were also destroyed, which is what small farming villages rely on. Many are living as refugees, because aid is very slow in reaching to the area."

Rapping, poetry and inspired chanting of "Share the love, fight the flood" could be heard throughout the West Mall on Thursday afternoon, as members of the UT organization Fighting the Flood attempted to raise awareness and collect donations for the disaster in Pakistan.

Students who donated were given free Henna tattoos, a symbol of Pakistani culture.

Fighting the Flood volunteers, including accounting graduate student Muneera Ali, held up signs that read "remembering the lives

FLOOD continues on page 2

University leads way in diversifying study abroad

By Amyna Dosani
Daily Texan Staff

UT is ahead of the curve in its proportion of minority students who study abroad, according to a recent national study and UT's study abroad office.

Eighteen percent of all study abroad participants nationwide in 2007-08 were minority students and 35 percent of full-time students enrolled in college were minorities, according to a study conducted by researchers from Augustana College and the University of Iowa. Minority students made up about 38 percent of all of UT's study abroad participants in 2008-09 and 45.5 percent of students enrolled were minorities, according to statistics from the UT Study Abroad Office.

While the nation's gap between minority students studying abroad and minority students enrolled full-time in college widened in the past decade, UT's steadily shrank.

"One of our goals is to have study abroad participation mirror the demographics of the University," said Heather Barclay Hamir, director of the Study Abroad Office.

Journalism junior Ariel Min, who plans to study in Bristol, England, said she wanted

STUDY continues on page 2

Health law takes effect, eases stress on student

By Daniel Sanchez
Daily Texan Staff

Isbah Raja said a huge weight on her and her family's shoulders was lifted when several provisions of national health care reform kicked in Thursday.

The Plan II junior said that a few years ago, she went to her general physician complaining of fatigue. Later, her father had to change insurance companies because of a change in employment. The new insurance company rejected her coverage because of her fatigue symptom.

Raja was again rejected for coverage after being diagnosed with lupus at 19 years old.

"I remember when my dad told me I didn't get accepted by insurance. I was kind of appalled," Raja said. "My parents pay my tuition for UT and to think that they have to pay even more because of my health — it's very stressful."

After Thursday, insurance companies can no longer deny patients coverage because of prior conditions. The reforms also allow young people to stay on their parents' health care plan until the age of 26 and ban lifetime benefit

caps for patient treatment, along with several other provisions of the health care bill.

Raja is one of 161,000 young people in Texas who will benefit from the new insurance policies, according to Texas Public Interest Research Group. The group announced the changes Thursday on the south steps of the UT Tower.

At the TexPIRG press conference, state Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, said Texas has the highest rate of uninsured persons in the nation at 26.1 percent. About 6.4 million Texans are uninsured, including 1.3 million children and 1,062,000 young adults ages 19 to 25, he said.

"Young people do get sick," Naishtat said. "Young adults need health care and that means they need insurance."

Student Government President Scott Parks said the increase in time that students can spend under their parents' insurance plans will make sure they don't face

HEALTH continues on page 2



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

Students petition on the West Mall to have the date of the 2011 Red River Rivalry moved to avoid conflict with the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

Jews protest scheduling of TX-OU game

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff

Jewish students may have to choose between the holiest of Jewish holidays and the rowdiest of college football games on Oct. 8

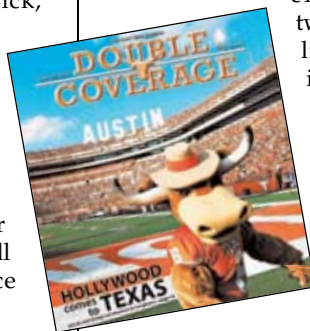
2011, because under the current schedule, Yom Kippur coincides with the Texas-Oklahoma game.

A group of Jewish students is circulating two petitions to encourage the athletics department to consider an alternative weekend that would still allow the game to be played at the Cotton Bowl during the State Fair of Texas. The 2011 football schedule is in flux because of the departure

of the University of Colorado and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from the Big 12.

"If it's something that's a possibility, there's no reason it shouldn't happen, and we haven't heard a good reason not to move it," said Ben Freed, a Middle Eastern studies and broadcast journalism senior who is one of the

GAME continues on page 2



For more on Longhorn football, see Double Coverage

The Daily Texan

Volume 111, Number 74

25 cents

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Corrections

Because of an editing error, Wednesday's page-one news story about the Republican filibuster of the DREAM Act should have said the Defense Reauthorization Bill included as two separate amendments a repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and a repeal of an abortion ban on military bases.

Because of an editing error, Wednesday's page-five news story about West Campus parking meters should have said Student Government does not support the elimination of free parking spaces in West Campus.

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Today's Weather

High 91

Low 73

Have fun at your high school reunion, Junior.



Thomas Allison | Daily Texan Staff

State Rep. Elliott Naishtat, TexPIRG field associate Emily Slatter and junior Isbah Raja spoke at a press conference on the Main Mall about the benefits of new health care laws allowing young adults to remain on their parents' policies until age 26.

Game: Student Government passes resolution in favor of moving date

From page 1

group's organizers.

There are about 4,000 undergraduate Jewish students and about 800 Jewish students in UT's graduate programs, according to the Texas Hillel website. Students are hosting a petition online at movetxou.com. The student version has received more than 3,000 signatures, while a version for alumni, families and other affiliated non-students has more than 1,000.

"This is not a Jewish issue," Freed said. "It would still be an issue if it were scheduled during Easter or Eid al-Fitr. So the response from the non-Jewish community has been awesome."

On Tuesday, Student Government unanimously passed a resolution authored by business representative Alex Greenberg in favor of moving the game. Greenberg said that despite student efforts, in the end, students may have to make the choice between attending the game and participating in Yom Kippur services. For practicing Jews, the day includes fasting and many hours in shul to offer repentance for their sins.

Athletics spokesman Nick Voinis said the possibility of moving the game is slim.

"We're sympathetic to our fans and our staff," Voinis said. "This was not done intentionally, but there is really not much that can be done at this point."

The Texas-OU game has fallen on Yom Kippur five times in the history of the game, and there has never been this level of response before, Voinis said. He added that because the calendar year contains so many holidays, it is inevitable that there will be conflicts.

"We played our spring game this past year on Easter and we've played other sports on Good Friday. We play football on Thanksgiving," he said.

Big 12 Associate Commissioner Bob Burda said that although scenarios exist in which the schedule could change, it is logistically complicated since the game must be coordinated with both universities, the city of Dallas, the State Fair and other football games that take place during fair weekends.

He also noted that neither university has requested a change in the schedule, which he said would be necessary before the Big 12 could consider it. The Big 12 is expected to release the final version of the 2011 football schedule next week.

Flood: About \$4,000 raised so far from donations

From page 1

lost" to help inspire passing students to donate to the cause. Once the donations are collected, they are sent to grassroots organizations in Pakistan.

The flooding began when monsoon rains poured down on various regions of the country in July. One-third of the country is now under water, and more than six million people have been affected as a result of the disaster. To date, more people have been affected by the Pakistan flood disaster than the earthquake in Haiti, the 2004 tsunami and the 2005 Pakistan earthquake combined.

"I've been a part of a lot of different student organizations and there's really something special

going on here," said architectural engineering senior Shahrukh Gaziani. "We're all different people from different places and diverse backgrounds, but we've all come together with a common goal in mind — to help people."

The organization raised about \$4,000 from student donations and their online PayPal account in the past month. Over the next year, \$12 billion is needed to aid Pakistan.

Government senior Nimra Chowdhry said many on campus don't even realize the disaster occurred.

"Some people think because they're not Pakistani, that they don't need to help, but that's not the case," Chowdhry said.

Health: Threat of law's repeal one concern for the future

From page 1

a gap in receiving quality health care.

"The job market right now is extremely difficult, so finding an employer — let alone one that will provide quality health care — is a daunting task," Parks said. "This [change in policy] will really give them a little more time to establish a financial foundation for themselves."

The one concern for the future, however, is the possibility of a repeal of the federal health care reform legislation, a move supported by 20 state attorneys general, Naishtat said.

"I don't think that's going to happen, but at the state level, we're concerned there could be efforts to undermine, slow down or create hurdles regarding compliance with and implementation of the new law," he said. "We need to make sure that doesn't happen."

Study: Time, money concerns deter travel abroad

From page 1

to experience a different culture, not just that of Korea, a culture she already knows.

"Why would I want to go back there?" she said. "I want to experience new stuff. I can just travel back [to Korea], because my relatives live there."

The study addressed possible marketing strategies, such as outreach programs and utilizing

social networks to advertise, the latter of which Plan II and history student Kevin Vermillion, who studied abroad in Buenos Aires this spring, can vouch for.

The main challenge to encouraging international study lies uniformly in time and money, regardless of race, said Christine Fisher, associate academic adviser for the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The Study Abroad Office tar-

geted high costs by reducing the cost of its faculty-led programs and offering scholarship options, Hamir said. To attract a larger variety of students, the office will also create more study abroad opportunities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. To increase outreach, the Study Abroad Office created the Study Abroad Mentor Program, which provides peer mentoring by study abroad alumni.

The Daily Texan

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The Daily Texan (USPS 146-440), a student newspaper at The University of Texas at Austin, is published by Texas Student Media, 2500 White Ave., Austin, TX 78705. The Daily Texan is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, federal holidays and exam periods, plus the last Saturday in July. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX 78710.

News contributions will be accepted by telephone (471-4591) or at the editorial office (Texas Student Media Building 2.122). For local and national display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified display and national classified display advertising, call 471-1865. For classified word advertising, call 471-5244.

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The Daily Texan Mail Subscription Rates

One Semester (Fall or Spring)	\$60.00
Two Semesters (Fall and Spring)	120.00
Summer Session	40.00
One Year (Fall, Spring and Summer)	50.00
To charge by Visa or MasterCard, call 471-5083. Send orders and address changes to Texas Student Media, P.O. Box D, Austin, TX 78713-8904, or to TSM Building C3.200, or call 471-5083.	
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Texan, P.O. Box D, Austin, TX 78713.	

09/24/10

Texan Ad Deadlines	Monday.....Wednesday, 12 p.m.	Thursday.....Monday, 12 p.m.
	Tuesday.....Thursday, 12 p.m.	Friday.....Tuesday, 12 p.m.
	Wednesday.....Friday, 12 p.m.	

Lease: Payout for UT to decrease greatly until 2012

From page 1

cord by a factor of four," Patterson said. "Nobody's going to put that kind of money down unless they think they can make some money."

However, for UT's PUF payout, called the Available University Fund, things are going to get worse before they get better.

UT Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hegarty said the University's payout is forecasted to shrink from \$160 million in the past fis-

cal year to \$157 million at the end of the next fiscal year.

UT is the only institution authorized by the state constitution to spend AUF money on non-capital purposes — items unrelated to construction, land or equipment.

The payout also funds the Center for Technology Commercialization, the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards and the System-wide Technology and Telecommunications Fund. Hegarty said as budget cuts have affected the Universi-

ty's finances, UT has had to rely on the AUF to pay for basic operational costs such as electricity.

"We have to explain to [the Legislature] that as budgets got cut and tuition got strained, we were having to live off the AUF more and more for pretty basic, mundane things," Hegarty said.

In the 2011-12 biennium, the payout will shrink further to \$152 million, but recovering oil prices will rocket the payout to \$179 million in 2012-13, according to the UT System's latest quarterly prediction.

Eric Potter, program director of UT's Bureau of Economic Geology, said oil and gas prices will increase over the next few decades because of finite resources and a lack of alternatives to oil and gas, but it's harder to predict prices in the short term.

"Industry, academic and government forecasters have a long history of failure to accurately predict oil and gas prices [in shorter time periods]," Potter said.

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Mexican government promises to help secure newspapers

Drug cartels are targeting journalists, photographers as narcotics war escalates

By Katherine Corcoran
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The threats, four or five of them, came to reporters at Imagen, a daily newspaper in the once-quiet state of Zacatecas where drug cartels have taken over in just the last few years. Then editor Patricia Mercado got a phone call ordering her to print a prepared article or she would be kidnapped.

Mercado ran the story — verbatim — of an innocent young man killed by the army, which was committing human rights abuse.

“If it’s a question of life or death, I have no trouble making a decision. The lives of my reporters are most important,” she said, after telling a group of Mexican journalists Thursday that traffickers from the Zetas cartel have “almost become the news editors.”

Her colleagues from across the country told similar stories of attacks, intimidation and self-censorship in a rare public debate days after El Diario de Juarez wrote a stunning editorial calling drug cartels the de facto authorities in Ciudad Juarez and saying, “Tell us what you want.”

President Felipe Calderón said Wednesday he would push legal reforms to protect journalists and create a security plan after he met with the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Inter American Press Association, which sponsored Thursday’s conference.

At the same time, the Attorney General’s Office announced the first lead in the 2008 killing of El Diario crime reporter Armando Rodríguez, saying soldiers had detained a suspect who described how Rodríguez was killed and said the journalist was targeted because of his work.

El Diario editor Pedro Torres, who ran the provocative editorial after a second of his journalists, 21-year-old photographer Luis Carlos Santiago, was killed last week, said he was skeptical about the arrest, given its timing.

“Every time there is pressure ... they find an escape valve. They present someone, an important arrest,” Torres told The Associated Press. In two years, he has yet to be interviewed about Rodríguez’s death. “It’s very hard to believe in an investigation that is carried out this way,” Torres said.

El Diario’s editorial dominated the public discourse all week in a country the U.N. called the most dangerous place for journalists in the Americas. Sixty-five news workers have been slain since 2000, Mexico’s National Commission on Human Rights has said.

“For me the most eloquent part of the editorial was the ‘de facto authorities,’” said Javier Garza, deputy editorial director of El Siglo de Torreon in the northern state of Coahuila, whose offices were shot up in 2009. “Why would we believe Calderon? ... The legitimate authorities have done nothing.”

US, Europe boycott Ahmadinejad’s speech

Controversial Iranian leader says most Americans back Sept. 11 conspiracy theories

By Ali Akbar Dareini & Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iran’s hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad provoked yet another controversy Thursday saying a majority of people in the United States and around the world believe the American government staged the Sept. 11 terror attacks in an attempt to assure Israel’s survival.

The provocative comments prompted the U.S. delegation to walk out of Ahmadinejad’s U.N. speech, where he also blamed the U.S. as the power behind U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iran for its refusal to halt uranium enrichment, a technology that can be used as fuel for electricity generation or to build nuclear weapons.

The Iranian leader — who has in the past cast doubt over the U.S. version of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — also called for setting up an independent fact-finding U.N. team to probe the attacks. That, he said, would keep the terror assault from turning into what he has called a sacred issue like the Holocaust where “expressing opinion about it won’t be banned.”

Ahmadinejad said there were three theories including:

—That a “powerful and complex terrorist group” penetrated U.S. intelligence and defenses, which is advocated “by American statesmen.”

—“That some segments within the U.S. government orchestrated the attack to reverse the declining American economy and its grips on the Middle East in order also to save the Zionist regime. The majority of the American people as well as other nations and politicians agree with this view.”

After Ahmadinejad uttered those words, two American diplomats stood and walked out without listening to the third theory.

Mark Kornblau, spokesman of the U.S. Mission to the world body, issued a statement within moments of the walkout.

“Rather than representing the aspirations and goodwill of the Iranian people,” he said, “Mr. Ahmadinejad has yet again chosen to spout vile conspiracy theories and anti-Semitic slurs that are as abhorrent and delusional as they are predictable.”

The Iranian president’s attacks on the United States and the dispute over Iran’s nuclear program dominated the opening of the General Assembly’s annual ministerial meeting.

In times of such polarization and uncertainty, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Ban said, “let us remember, the world still looks to the United Nations for moral and political leadership.”

President Barack Obama, speaking soon after, echoed the secretary-general, warning that underneath challenges to security and prosperity “lie deeper fears: that ancient hatreds and religious divides are once again ascendant; that a world which has grown more interconnected has somehow slipped beyond our control.”

The U.S. president’s 32-minute speech — twice the allotted 15 minutes — covered global hotspots from Iran and Afghanistan to the Mideast and North Korea.

“The United States and the international community seek a resolution to our differences with Iran, and the door remains open to diplomacy should Iran choose to walk through it,” he said. “But the Iranian government must demonstrate a clear and credible commitment, and confirm to the world the peaceful intent of its nuclear program.”



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday. US and European diplomats left the General Assembly when Ahmadinejad spoke about 9/11 conspiracy theories.

Richard Drew
Associated Press



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Gemunu Amarasinghe | Associated Press

Newly trained female officers of the Afghan National Army attend their graduation at the Army's training center in Kabul on Thursday.

VIEWPOINT

Re-evaluate diversity

The 2010 incoming freshman class is the most racially diverse in UT history. White students now constitute about 48 percent of the freshman class and about 52 percent of the student body, according to a report released earlier this month by the Office of Information Management and Analysis.

“We’re really pleased with the numbers,” Kedra Ishop, vice provost and director of admissions, told The Daily Texan. “It shows that this University is becoming more diverse every year.”

The report shows that the University is becoming increasingly representative of the demographics of Texas — racially, that is.

However, in measuring diversity, other factors must be considered, including a student’s residency and socioeconomic status. Students’ educational experiences are enriched when surrounded by people with a diverse range of backgrounds, and it’s important to acknowledge that racial diversity alone does not singularly show evidence of true, educational diversity.

Students cannot always learn in a classroom what they learn from exposure to an array of philosophies and ideologies influenced by the geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds of their peers. Ultimately, increasing diversity serves Texans.

As the state’s flagship institution, UT should ensure that it is providing Texas residents, including those populations that are often underrepresented, with access to higher education. In an effort to do so, the University opened the West Texas Admissions Center in Lubbock last week, just one month after it opened the East Texas Admissions Center in Longview. Opening these centers is a positive step toward diversifying the student body, as West Texas and East Texas have traditionally been underrepresented regions at UT.

Students of low socioeconomic backgrounds have also been underrepresented at UT. Over the last 30 years, students from low-income backgrounds have accounted for much of the growth in enrollment at community and non-competitive four-year colleges, but students from the wealthiest segment of income distribution have accounted for a growing share of enrollments at the most selective institutions, according to “Rewarding Strivers: Helping Low-Income Students Succeed in College” as reported by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Unfortunately, the Office of Information Management and Analysis, which provided the statistics on the racial and geographic breakdown of the freshman classes, does not keep data regarding the socioeconomic distribution. The fact that the office does not keep such data highlights the imbalance in evaluation of diversity on campus.

Additionally, the office has not yet released any other data for the 2010 incoming freshman class aside from the racial breakdown.

The emphasis placed on the latest report, which came via a University press release, shows the importance the University places on those statistics.

While opening the new admissions centers is a good step toward diversity, the University should do more to emphasize all aspects of a diverse student body, including geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds. It can start by making more comprehensive data more accessible.



Illustration by Dae-Hyun Jin

Move the OU game

By Daley Epstein
Daily Texan Columnist

The holiest day of the Jewish year and the holiest day of the Longhorn calendar don’t usually coincide. However, next year, Yom Kippur and the Red River Rivalry both fall on Oct. 8, leaving Jewish Longhorns, about 10.5 percent of the UT student body, in a major predicament.

I bleed burnt orange and have spent a good part of the first month of school eagerly anticipating the annual OU beatdown. But I also consider myself faithful to my religion, and I am most definitely not the only one who believes attending Yom Kippur services surpasses all other engagements. But no fan should ever need to make that choice.

Yom Kippur is the most important day of the Jewish year, even for non-observant Jews. It is the day with the single highest synagogue attendance annually. Known as the Day of Judgement, Yom Kippur includes a 25-hour fast and serves as a time for intensive reflection and repentance. When sitting in God’s court, reading page after page of Hebrew, I should not have to worry about the foreign letters transforming into the X’s and O’s of a playbook or “The Eyes of Texas” replacing the familiar prayer tunes in my head. My focus needs to be on the holiday, not the game.

There is no reason this should even be a concern. As a matter of courtesy and respect, those who plan the football schedule should intentionally avoid scheduling significant games on major religious holidays. Football at UT is a religion in itself, but a uniquely flexible one that should be practiced at an appropriate time.

If Yom Kippur was the day of a typical

athletic event, then the conflict wouldn’t be so significant, but the Red River Rivalry is a time-honored Longhorn tradition and one of the foremost rivalry games in American sports. In fact, when The Dallas Morning News interviewed 119 Division 1A football coaches on their opinion of the top rivalry game in college football, the Red River Rivalry came in third.

Unhappy students are already taking action to induce change. Junior Jordan Bagel started a Facebook group titled “Texas OU Game 2011 on Yom Kippur...LET’S CHANGE IT!” to raise awareness and spur discussion. Two hundred thirty-five members joined the group in its first 24 hours of existence, and with more than 600 members, the group is growing rapidly.

The University accommodates students who miss tests and assignment due dates for religious holidays by allowing extended time to finish assignments and by creating other options to ensure a student isn’t penalized. Although the game isn’t officially a part of University academics, it is a part of University culture and therefore should be given the same standard of respect. The amount of money spent on athletics each year proves that it is a significant department at UT, so it should adhere to University policies and practices.

Over the summer, UT renamed Simkins Residence Hall because of its namesake’s KKK ties. Choosing the inclusive route, even when it meant righting a decades-old wrong, is important to the University. Especially after UT received such poor publicity because of the Simkins fiasco, the University must avoid any appearance of intolerance and prevent this wrong from ever needing repair.

The conflict is an unfortunate coincidence

of the game’s traditional setting during the second weekend of the State Fair, but that aspect of the tradition is not well known and is insignificant. It could just as easily take place on the first or third weekend of the fair. Yom Kippur, on the other hand, is a set date on the Hebrew calendar and cannot be changed.

Regardless, changing the date now gives the University a chance to establish a national reputation for tolerance and understanding.

Changing the game will unquestionably necessitate other changes as well, such as modification in scheduling for hotels, news stations and other businesses who are accustomed to having the game at a set time annually. Although these adaptations may be difficult, they are necessary and entirely feasible a year out.

The OU game is also scheduled to occur on Yom Kippur in 2014, so we need to set a precedent that will avoid this issue in the future. People like to joke that we treat UT football as a religion, but Judaism actually is one. Hopefully fans and decision-makers can make the distinction and adjust plans accordingly. Yom Kippur’s date has been set for 5,000 years and cannot be changed. The date of the game can.

Throughout the week, impassioned students have established residence on the West Mall and in front of Jester. There they spent long hours manning booths in support of changing the game, collecting names and EIDs to successfully petition change. The students clearly value both religion and football and are sacrificing time and energy to celebrate both. Hopefully the University can respect that and make a change.

Epstein is a Plan II and business freshman.

Graduate students, rise up!

By Brandon Curl
Daily Texan Columnist

Beware, undergrads! We graduate students lurk anonymously in your midst, often unbeknownst to you or even others of our own kind.

“But who is the graduate student?” the wary freshmen might ask. Some things to know:

First, we carry messenger bags, preferably leather. Also, we are all married, frequently to each other. A few of us have kids. In fact, some of you are our kids.

You may recognize us as your TAs. As such, we are gatekeepers to your future employment, bastions of intellect and pioneers of all human knowledge. We are also chronically in debt.

We are not easily identified. Just as you are reading this newspaper, you may be sitting next to one of us. Perhaps you met us in line for coffee at Einstein’s this morning, our identity only subtly betrayed by the smirk crossing our face when you asked, “What year are you?”

“I’m a graduate student,” we intone. You, on the other hand, are an undergraduate. Under. Beneath us. (Look, we didn’t make up the word.)

But fear not, undergrads. We pose no threat. On the contrary, we are quite benign. We know that this University is your turf. UT belongs to you; we are happy simply to visit awhile.

If the Eyes of Texas are upon you, then perhaps we are but the focus of its peripheral vision.

Unfortunately, the graduate student is

under persistent emotional duress. Despite the efforts of our University and peer organizations, we struggle to feel connected, to develop a cohesive community in spite of and because of our diverse population. We are alone in the crowd.

For undergrads, UT is an experience. For grad students, it’s work. And I’ve had my grad professors state it that frankly: “This class is your job.”

How does this happen? How can it be that undergrads — and we were undergrads once — revel in fulfilling, overlapping communities, while grad students are here simply to punch the clock?

To explain the plight of the graduate student, we have to again ask who is the graduate student, but seriously this time.

Grad students are fewer in number but broader in focus. At UT, there are more than 12,000 graduate students (compared to nearly 40,000 undergrads) active in 100 fields of study from architectural history to textiles and apparel technology.

Grad students have a vast range of interests. The leaders of our elected governing body, the Graduate Student Assembly, are a Ph.D. student in higher education administration, a second-year law student and a Ph.D. student in sports management. Talk about a dream team.

Grad students are older. Duh. According to the most recently published data, the average age of a UT grad student is 29.3. But the distribution is wide, as students range from ages 18 to 65, with more than 13 percent over the age of 35.

Grad students are more globally diverse. The graduate population is com-

posed of more than 26 percent foreign students, compared to just 4 percent for undergrads.

If there is a common way to characterize all graduate students, it is that they are all completely different.

We’re from different generations. We speak different languages. We have different motivations. We don’t live near each other — in the same hallway, same dorm or even the same zip code.

When we watch UT football, we quietly root for the other team in hopes of a more entertaining game. We can’t help it. Sorry.

Don’t get me wrong, undergrads. You’re all unique and special, too. It’s just that grad students are demographically different to a degree that exceeds the undergrad experience and precludes a common graduate one.

All of my rhetoric aside, I’m not so foolish as to suggest that grad students are loners, that we have no friends or that we haven’t found our own socially rewarding niches. We have.

But what I am saying is that grad students lack that unifying experience that makes us feel like we’re a part of a larger whole. Until the University increases the number and quality of structured events to allow grad students from all disciplines to interact, these feelings will persist.

Coincidentally, I’m flying back to my alma mater today for Homecoming, where I don’t feel so much like an intruder. I’m hoping that eventually UT will feel like home, too.

Curl is an advertising graduate student.

THE FIRING LINE

A new ticket system

Monday morning. My Blackberry reads 9 a.m., and I’m surrounded by bleary-eyed students. It was a good weekend, as they usually are in Austin. But now it’s back to reality. The only thing is, this reality is not an Intro to Chemistry class. Instead, it is UT Football 101. It is the Longhorn All-Sports Package ticket-draw line.

I love football as much as anyone. I follow the New England Patriots and the Colorado Buffaloes as much as I can from Texas, and I also follow UT football. Who can resist it? It is a huge money maker for the school, as well as one of the most exciting parts of attending the University of Texas. Certainly, all students who so desire should be given the chance to attend.

That said, I would like to propose that the University find a new procedure for distributing LASP tickets to students. Many students I talked to lamented the fact that they had to miss class in order to maybe get a ticket to a football game. At no university, especially one with such high academic standards as the University of Texas, should students be forced to choose between attending a football game and attending class. The University needs to find an alternative to Monday morning ticket draws. It’s not fair to students, and it’s not fair to the University’s reputation.

After all, if students are going to learn about the horrors of bread lines, they should learn about it in a European history class. They shouldn’t be forced to experience it firsthand at the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.

— John Blasing
Middle Eastern studies graduate student

LEGALESE

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E-mail your Firing Lines to firingline@dailytexanonline.com. Letters must be more than 100 and fewer than 300 words. The Texan reserves the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity and liability.



Freshman Mary Kammerman and sophomore Stephanie Saenz play Jeopardy with other College of Education students and faculty at the reveal of EDDIE the owl, the new education mascot.

Education school chooses mascot

By Allie Kolečta
Daily Texan Staff

The College of Education has a new source of pride — an owl named EDDIE — and, the college council hopes, a new reason to donate to the school.

The college's new mascot was unveiled Thursday as the college also launched a student philanthropy campaign on the plaza of the George I. Sánchez Building. The winning design, an owl created by elementary education freshman Katherine Leung, was chosen from three finalists, which were selected from an original 11 contestants.

Kinesiology senior Emily Cheek, president of the Education Council, said the idea of a mascot was brought up at an April meeting held to discuss ways to motivate students to give back to the college.

"We were trying to think of ways

we could build a sense of unity," she said. "Kinesiology and education are very different majors in the same college, and we wanted a common symbol that everyone could identify with. That symbol was EDDIE."

EDDIE will also promote student philanthropy in the college, said Bliss Angerman, director of constituent relations at the College of Education.

Leung said the owl is a traditional symbol of scholarship and represents kinesiology because they are the masters of movement.

"They do that crazy thing with their heads, they're really good hunters, they can see in pitch darkness, they have really good hearing — all this cool stuff," she said. "I thought it would be really important to find a mascot that represents both parts of the college."

Organizations such as Teachers of Tomorrow and Kinesiology Club tabled at the launch party. Applied learning and development senior Adalia Espinosa, who was tabling for Minorities in Education, said she has already seen the positive effects of EDDIE within her organization.

"EDDIE is a part of the whole college and so are we, so it's kind of like we've got each other's backs," she said. "The whole purpose of EDDIE is to help raise money to improve organizations and the college."

Youth and communities studies junior Courtney Maple, the Student Government representative for the College of Education, said while the school is lacking in numbers compared to larger colleges such as the McCombs School of Business, the College of Education is compensating in other ways and aspires to be a more prominent voice on campus.

"I want our students to feel unified. I think this event, this campaign and this new design will support that," she said. "I'm hoping that this will trickle down and infiltrate all sorts of avenues in the college. Students will feel more pride and be more inclined to participate."

"We were trying to think of ways we could build a sense of unity."

— Emily Cheek
Kinesiology senior

Senate proposal to curb towering cost of college

By Amy Thornton
Daily Texan Staff

State higher education leaders said Thursday that Texas will have to reinvent how it funds colleges and universities to keep costs from rising out of control.

In its final interim public hearing, the Senate Higher Education Committee addressed inefficiencies in college spending and ways to improve spending in higher education. At the hearing, state senators and education experts discussed both three-year and community college bachelor's degree programs and more effective uses of technology, such as digital textbooks and online degree programs.

In the run-up to the 82nd Legislative Session, the Higher Education Committee was responsible for nine Interim Charges the Texas Senate wanted to be discussed and investigated. The issues included restructuring financial aid, improving developmental education and examining the quality of academic advising to improve completion rates. The committee will combine the findings to draft a report for the state Senate that will offer recommendations in the areas of each charge.

Raymund Paredes, commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, told the committee that community colleges and four-year institutions must improve collaboration in course offerings to graduate more students.

"The current model of financing higher education is unsustainable," Paredes said. "We are going to have to reinvent parts of it to hold down costs and deliver better educational outcomes."

In light of projections of a state budget shortfall as high as \$21 billion, committee chairwoman and state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said the hearing could be one of the most important of the Higher Education Committee.

"The legislation that results from this committee will tie directly with the funds we have available," said state Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, a member of the committee. "This is going to be a session like we haven't seen before, and we will be encountering a number of financial issues that we have never had to deal with."

Given the budgetary restrictions, recommendations that cost additional money will likely not be considered as much of a priority as those that help the efficiency of what is already in place.

"Nationwide, there has been a trend in the past 30 years where higher education institutions have been getting a lower level of budgetary support," said Sherri Greenberg, a professor in the LBJ School of Public Affairs. "I don't see this trend reversing during the next legislative session, particularly given the economic climate."



State Sen. Robert Duncan, right, questions Raymund Paredes, commissioner for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, on Thursday.

VOTE!

in The Daily Texan's **FALL 2010**
UTMOST SURVEY

The UTMOST Survey offers students, parents, shop owners, patrons, faculty/staff members and the entire UT community the opportunity to write in choices for their ultimate favorites. From happy hour specials to study spots on campus, the UTMOST Survey results are presented in a special edition that publishes Oct. 13.

THE RULES

- Please write clearly
- No photocopied surveys
- Only one survey submission per IP address
- Only one hand-delivered survey per person
- One one mailed-in survey per envelope
- All forms of survey submission must be received by **Friday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.**

You may submit your UTmost choices in three ways:

- online at <http://www.dailytexanonline.com>
- in person at the Hearst Student Media Building, **HSM 3.200** from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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EATING AND DRINKING

Happy Hour _____

Campus/Neighborhood Bar _____

Vegetarian/Vegan Food _____

Sandwich Shop _____

Coffeehouse _____

Sushi _____

Trailer Food _____

Barbecue Joint _____

Sweet Treat _____

Late Night/24-Hour _____

CAMPUS

UT Athlete _____

Study Spot _____

College at UT _____

Student Organization _____

Food on Campus _____

On-Campus Residence Hall _____

Off-Campus Residence Hall/Apartment _____

Event _____

RecSports/Gregory Gym Offering _____

Place to go Between Classes _____

SERVICES

Hair Salon _____

Barbershop _____

Computer/Cell Phone Repair _____

Apartment Locator _____

Tattoo/Piercing _____

Laundromat/Dry Cleaner _____

Law Offices _____

Spa _____

Oil Change/Auto Care _____

Bicycle Repair _____

ENTERTAINMENT

Music Venue _____

Festival _____

Museum _____

To Watch UT Football Games _____

Dance Club _____

Downtown Bar _____

On-Campus Spot _____

Movie Theater _____

KVRX Show _____

Local Band _____

SHOPPING

Grocery Store _____

For Textbooks _____

Vintage/Thrift Store _____

Shop on the Drag _____

Apartment/Dorm Decor _____

Nearby Convenience Store _____

Local Clothing Boutique _____

UT Gear _____

Party Supplies _____

Liquor Store _____

UTMOST OF ALL

The best of the best _____

SOCCER

Weekend matches mark end of an era



Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

Kylie Doniak dribbles down field during a game earlier in the season. Doniak and the rest of the Longhorn soccer team will play the Cornhuskers and Buffaloes this weekend.

Final Big 12 trips to Nebraska, Colorado the beginning of tough road tests

By Jon Parrett
Daily Texan Staff

The Longhorns will travel to Nebraska and Colorado for the last time as their Big 12 opponents when Texas begins conference play this weekend.

Texas (6-1-1) is coming off a 1-0 upset win over 10th-ranked BYU on Monday. But

they're playing on short rest and must be ready for the Huskers (7-2), who are undefeated at home.

"We have a very competitive conference, so we want to make sure we're going in strong and building confidence, so we can finish even stronger at the end of the season," said senior defender Erika

Campanelli.

Texas had a lighter week of training this week because of the Monday game, but as head coach Chris Petrucelli put it, their best preparation for Nebraska was playing BYU.

Texas did, however, use the shortened week to simulate playing on the Cornhuskers' field. Nebraska has a smaller field than

Texas, so the Longhorns replicated that decrease in space during practice.

Nebraska poses a special challenge for Texas because of their high-attack offense, led by forward Morgan Marlborough — who leads the Big 12 in points and shots —

BIG 12 continues on page 7

WOMEN'S TENNIS



Corey Leamon | Daily Texan Staff

Longtime friends and golf teammates Nicole Vandermade and Rebecca Lee-Bentham sport their Texas and Canadian pride.

Canadian golfers find home in Texas team

By Chris Hummer
Daily Texan Staff

The U.S. Women's Amateur is the pinnacle of American events for future golf stars. However, the two Longhorns stepping up to the tee for the tournament are Canadian.

Junior Nicole Vandermade and freshman Rebecca Lee-Bentham both started their golf careers in Ontario, Canada, but it was not the first sport they took a swing at.

Vandermade was 9 years old when she started hitting the links, although her first love was always basketball. Eventually she switched because she was better at golf.

Lee-Bentham's story was much of the same; She started golfing around age 12 under the direction of her father. She also grew up playing other sports but decided to focus on golf when she saw all the opportunities it presented to her.

The two golfers met while competing in a number of local tournaments around Ontario. Vandermade and Lee-Bentham became closer when they joined the national team at 17 and 15 years old, respectively. Vandermade links their friendship to the same low-key personality that they both

share and their common interests, such as golf.

Vandermade and Lee-Bentham feel that participating on the Canadian national team was a distinguished honor as they got the chance to represent their country. And though it was not their motive for joining the national squad, the girls said they particularly enjoyed the benefits that came with being on the team. The girls both received exemptions into tournaments such as the British Amateur, the LPGA tour and the U.S. Open at the famed Oakmont Country Club. Ultimately, both players loved the feeling of competing for their country and playing for something bigger than themselves, Vandermade said.

Lee-Bentham said that playing for Canada gives her a great sense of pride. Additionally, both loved being on the team because of the supportive atmosphere and the camaraderie of competing alongside of their peers.

Belonging to the national team also gives both players the opportunity to play for Canada in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where golf is being introduced as an Olympic sport for the first time. Both golfers would love to

GOLF continues on page 7

NCAA FOOTBALL

Future Longhorns still powerful despite more difficult scheduling



By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Columnist

When it was announced in the fall of 2005 that Texas and UCLA would be playing each other in 2010 and 2011, a much younger and more handsome version of myself immediately started counting his fingers and realized that he would be a senior at Texas when this game was played.

Looking five years ahead, I was ecstatic. The future non-conference schedules filled with Rice, Central Florida and Wyoming hadn't been too appealing. Certainly, UCLA would bring great excitement to Austin. Surely a huge university such as UCLA, with such a prestigious athletic history, would set up the matchup of the century.

But instead it is quite the opposite. Since losing Maurice Jones-Drew to the NFL following the

2005 season, the Bruins have struggled to become a dominant force in college football.

This season, UCLA brings a 1-2 record into Austin against the seventh-ranked Longhorns, who should have little trouble with the Bruins.

With the Longhorns concluding a recent scheduling spree on Wednesday after the announcement of a home-and-home series with Maryland in 2016 and 2017, Texas' non-conference schedule is now set through 2017.

Peeking at these future schedules, things appear to be a little more difficult, adding dates with USC, Notre Dame, Cal, BYU and Ole Miss. But come five and, in some cases, 10 years from now, will these universities still have strong football programs or will we have ourselves another UCLA situation?

Here is how things could look come game time for these far-away games.

FUTURE continues on page 7

Notable Games

Date	Opponent
09/24/10	UCLA
09/17/11	UCLA
09/08/12	New Mexico
09/07/13	BYU
09/14/13	Mississippi
09/06/14	BYU
09/13/14	Arkansas
09/05/15	Notre Dame
09/19/15	California
09/03/16	Notre Dame
09/10/16	UTEP
09/17/16	California
09/02/17	Maryland
09/16/17	Southern Cal
09/01/18	Maryland
09/15/18	Southern Cal
08/31/19	Notre Dame
09/12/20	Notre Dame



Lauren Gerson | Daily Texan Staff

Will Muschamp fires up his defense. Dan's crystal ball says Muschamp will take over the team in 2015.

SIDELINE

MEN'S TENNIS



Napa Valley Tennis Classic
Date: Today through Sunday
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Meadowood Napa Valley—St. Helena, Calif.

WOMEN'S TENNIS



UNLV Fall Invitational
Date: Today through Sunday
Where: Fertitta Tennis Complex—Las Vegas.

WEEK 4:
BIG 12 FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE
SATURDAY

Central Florida at Kansas State, 11:30 a.m.

Miami (OH) at Missouri, 1 p.m.

UCLA at Texas, 2:30 p.m.

Oklahoma at Cincinnati, 5 p.m.

New Mexico State at Kansas, 6 p.m.

Northern Iowa at Iowa State, 6 p.m.

Baylor at Rice, 7 p.m.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Miami

31

Pittsburgh

3

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

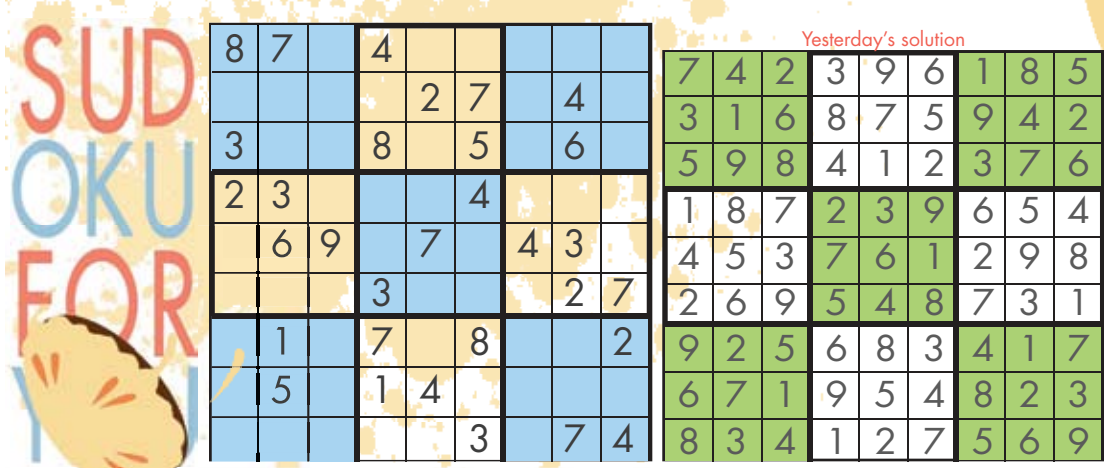
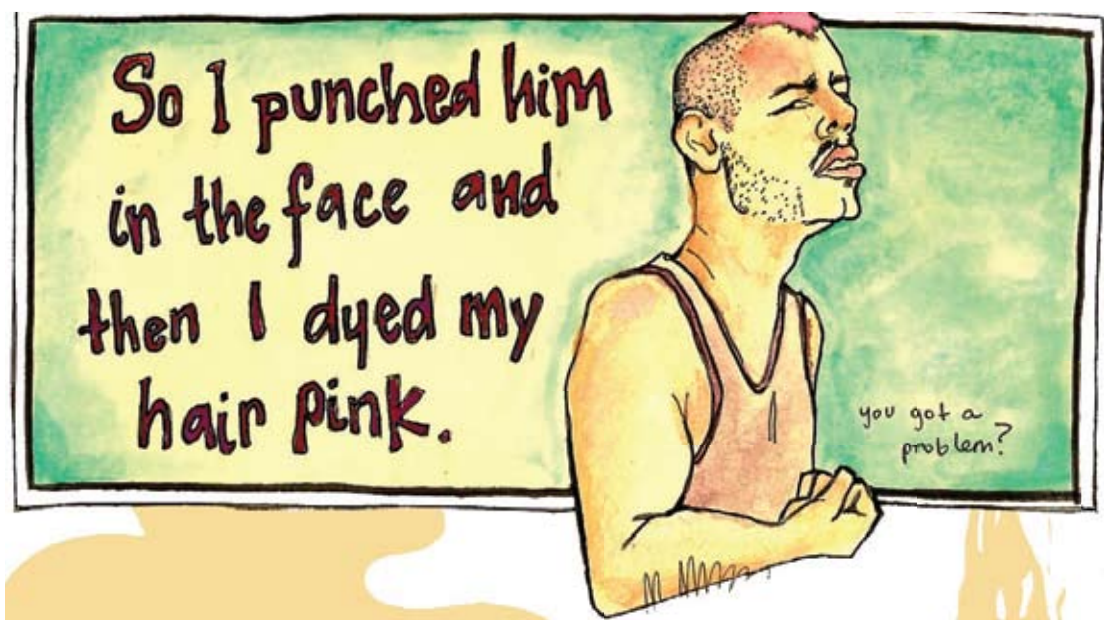
Did you know that old quarterbacks never die?

They just pass away.

THIS DAY IN SPORTS HISTORY:

In 1971, after 21 long innings, the Houston Astros beat the San Diego Padres 2-1

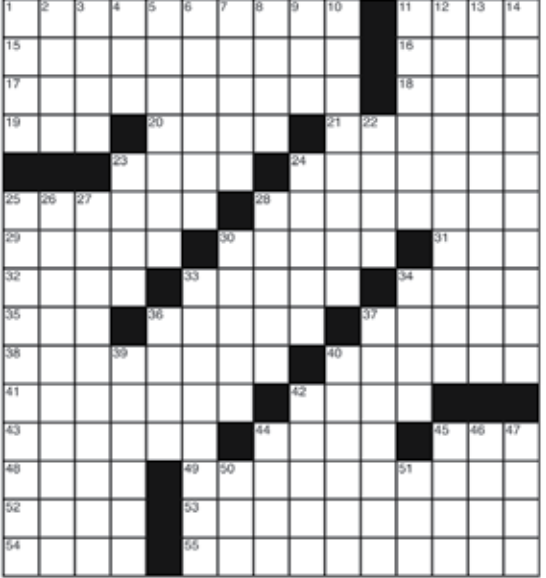
Check out
Let's Talk Sports
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0820

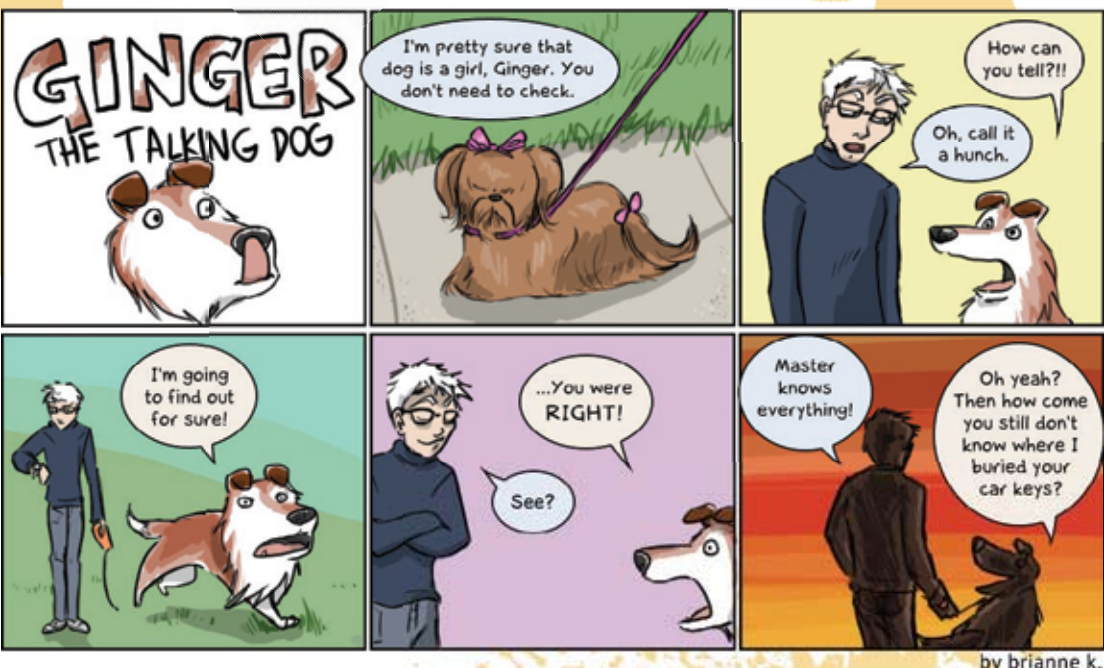
- Across
- 1 Objet d'art at auction in "Octopussy"
- 11 Queens's Stadium
- 15 Torn
- 16 Grps. sponsoring many book fairs
- 17 What a lift may get you out of
- 18 Languages in the lockup
- 19 Big print: Abbr.
- 20 Not procrastinating
- 21 Rosaceous ornamental
- 23 European princely dynasty name
- 24 Ancient dynasty name
- 25 Newspaper section
- 28 Phil Mickelson specialty
- 29 Shake, as a tail
- 30 Sweat blood
- 31 Bit of bread
- 32 Make less flamboyant
- 33 What a V may indicate
- 34 Doesn't look normal
- 35 Its HQ is in D.C.'s Federal Triangle
- 36 Origination point for many fireworks
- 37 Dogged
- 38 It's played with 144 pieces
- 40 Reading-and-feeding occasions
- 41 Hair, legally
- 42 Cosmetic extremes?
- 43 Strands on a branch, perhaps
- 44 Org. that subpoenaed Abbie Hoffman
- 45 He outlawed 38-Across because it promoted gambling
- 48 Rambos might wield them
- 49 Lampshade blemish
- 52 "The Labors of Hercules" painter
- 53 Simple trattoria dressing
- 54 What people are on during a nail-biter
- 55 Common feature of a Dracula mask



- Down
- 1 Put in the archives
- 2 Like many forum postings; Abbr.
- 3 Not just sniffle
- 4 Masthead figs.
- 5 "Touché!" elicitor
- 6 Effects created by 43-Across
- 7 Unexplainable, maybe
- 8 Discharge
- 9 Std. in chronometry
- 10 Pilot's setting
- 11 Folks are often fooled when these arrive
- 12 Magazine
- 13 Prejudicial propagandist
- 14 What cribs might be used for
- 22 Venerated visitor
- 23 Himmel und — (apple-and-potato dish)
- 24 Niche
- 25 Still developing
- 26 Like men, women and children
- 27 Topping
- 28 Fannie who wrote "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe"
- 30 It has a diagonal rib
- 33 Plywood cutter
- 34 Hospital administration, briefly
- 36 A boxer who work on it
- 37 Triangular nut producers
- 39 Daughter in "night, Mother"
- 40 Creature with a paddletail
- 42 "Antiques Roadshow" item
- 44 You may hear Muzak when you're on it
- 45 — soprano
- 46 Soprano —
- 47 Assent to relent
- 50 Hollywood techie's field, briefly
- 51 Disorderly do

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

TACO	STRAW	TOI
ONAN	VIOLA	ERIO
GAME	HUNTER	MELT
REMY	SET	PIECE
SCRAPED	SANTAS	
PHONELINE	LEANT	
AYN	MOOD	ENG
HEAD	FIRST	
AJAX	EASY	RUE
STENT	STONECOLD	
ERAGON	NETLOSS	
LANDLOCK	TAFT	
DINO	BANDMASTER	
ONEG	ENEMY	SORT
MISS	LEEZA	APSE



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EVENT PREVIEW
BALLET AUSTIN



Courtesy of Ballet Austin

Ballet Austin's "Carmina Burana" and "Kai" combine classical and modern dance, with themes dating back to the hidden desires of 11th century monks.

Ballet celebrates human desire through dance

By Layne Lynch
Daily Texan Staff

In 1803, more than 250 poems and writings composed by monks and religious students from the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries were discovered outside of Munich. Embedded in these poems were not expressions of religious devotion and piety. Instead, the poems evoked their desires, lusts, passions, indulgences and many other emotions typically not associated with one who has dedicated their life to the cloth.

It wasn't until 1935 that these poems were given life and turned into a storyline by German composer Carl Orff, who selected 24 of the poems and tweaked them into a drama filled with harmonious music and rhythmic dance titled "Carmina Burana."

Flash forward to 2006: Ballet

Austin debuted its 50th anniversary piece, "Kai," a story that follows the lives of a mysterious couple and a tribe in the midst of seasonal celebration. Originally based on the music of John Cage, known particularly for his piano pieces, the music draws inspiration from the rhythmic waves of the South Pacific waters.

Ballet Austin is debuting the dual ballets "Carmina Burana" and "Kai," which both incorporate parallel themes of romance and human desire, for the opening to their season running Sept. 24-26.

"Carmina [Burana] is a musical piece that choreographers have added to over history, and 'Kai' somehow weaves together very nicely with it," said artistic director Stephen Mills. "At the heart of both of these ballets, the message is all about love

and relationships."

Particularly awe-inspiring in "Carmina Burana" is the combination of three unique artistic mediums. In addition to the more typical combination of a ballet and accompanying orchestra music, "Carmina Burana" enlists the use of more than 150 choir members from the Grammy-nominated choir Conspirare. For Mills, this particular attribute sets "Carmina Burana" apart from other ballets.

"The beauty of 'Carmina' is when the curtains open, you see 300 performers at one time," Mills said. "It's an incredible and rare experience [in ballet]."

Although the ballet is considered modern in its style, it still has strong ties to classical ballet, Mills said. For company dancer Ashley Lynn Gilfix, dancing in a ballet that evokes

WHAT: Ballet Austin's "Carmina Burana" and "Kai"
WHERE: Friday, Saturday, and Today at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.
WHEN: Long Center for the Performing Arts
TICKETS: balletaustin.org

classical and modern themes is a rare experience. The contortions of the shapes evoke modern dance, but the use of point shoes still roots the ballet in classical style.

"One of the reasons I love Ballet Austin is that we do both classical and modern [dances]," Gilfix said. "In this generation we are trying to keep classical ballet alive, but also keep moving forward and continue to push the envelope. I wouldn't feel balanced without both."

EXERCISE: Cognitive benefits dependent on correct intensity of activity

From page 10

"Most research is on aerobic exercise, but resistance training has been shown to be beneficial in cognitive functioning as well," said Mike Faries, a graduate research assistant at the Fitness Institute of Tex-

as at UT.

Brain activity and exercise are ongoing topics of research, from studies about reversing or preventing the effects of Alzheimer's and other degenerative diseases to how it can help children's brains form.

In the near future, researchers and physicians at NeuroTexas Institute, a neurosurgery group in Austin, will be involved in a study of the potential of aerobic exercise to promote the adding, changing or reconnection of brain cells in patients with traumatic brain injury. They believe

that cardiovascular fitness has the potential to improve the outcomes in brain-injury rehabilitation.

So whether you're running, swimming, walking, playing basketball or lifting weights, you are doing your mind and body good for now and for the future.

BRAID: Independent gaming scene grows vastly since release

From page 10

but not unduly more complicated.

"Braid" was a completely self-financed game, with a production team consisting of Blow and former web comics artist David Hellman ("A Lesson is Learned but the Damage is Irreversible"). Blow spent more than \$150,000 of his own savings with additional loans and several years pursuing his unique vision.

Although there was initial balking at the \$15 price tag (which was a high price for an independently developed game in 2007), the response to "Braid" has been overwhelmingly positive. The critical darling became the talk of the town — especially the game's elliptical and fairly opaque story line about a stolen princess, the artistic process and the design and detonation of the first atomic bomb.

Everyone had something to say; hip-hop artist Soulja Boy praised the game's intense psychedelic elements in a viral video and more recently the game was adapted into an interpretative dance by the Chaparral High School Alumni Theatre troupe of Parker, Colo. "Braid" became a cultural phenomenon that made mainstream gamers sit up and take notice of previously marginalized independent work.

"This whole idea that indie games were something that you'd want to play or pay money for really wasn't true when I was making 'Braid' in 2007," Blow said, who went on to compare average sales for indie games in 2007 to be fewer than 10,000 copies and now are comparatively higher, averaging 500,000 copies sold for the more popular titles.

Blow insists the allure of his own hype could color his judgment as he currently develops his new game, "The Witness." The official website contains a quote from the Dhammapada, a Buddhist holy text, and offers the cryptic description: "An exploration-puzzle game on an uninhabited island."

"When 'Myst' came out, it instantly achieved a mass-market status on a level very surprising for a video game in the '90s," Blow said.

"But shortly thereafter, the adventure genre kind of petered out and died. I think in the time since then, video games have become much more playable and there are some things that I want to address in adventure games to work them over for the modern era."

"The Witness" sees Blow's developmental team greatly expanded, from two people to seven. They work remotely, with Blow orchestrating the efforts from his San Francisco home while still handling most of the key programming and design work himself. Blow said that the initial inspiration for "The Witness" was not a story or a gameplay element, but rather a feeling or moment.

"One of the things in 'Braid' was that the puzzles were very simple, but the answers were obscured by weird rules with time or other interactions," Blow said. "You look at it and think, 'This looks impossible!' But you know, because this is a puzzle game, that there is an answer, so you keep working on it until there's this moment of epiphany where one thing that you didn't see until you see it, and it just clicks."

On Thursday's panel "Declaration of Independents," Blow sat with Jim Munroe, founder of independent publisher No Media Kings, and Derek Yu, developer of freeware PC titles such as "Spelunky" and "Eternal Daughter." Moderated by Brandon Boyer, the chairman of the Independent Games Festival, they spoke about what it means to be indie.

"It used to be that small teams would release games to expand their portfolio in the hopes to be hired by a large developer," Boyer said. "Now, it's perfectly legitimate to say, 'We're not interested in the big corporate work. We wanna do our own thing.'"

At tonight's panel, "Jonathan Blow meets Nacho Vigalondo," Blow will have a conversation with the Spanish filmmaker ("Timecrimes") about the crossover of genre films and genre games. Blow is currently undergoing development on "The Witness," the progress of which can be followed at his development blog the-witness.net.

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Yesterday's Answer: Jukebox



Diane Collman, third grade teacher and assistant organizer for the Austin Motorcycle Riders Group, has been riding for about four years and enjoys driving around with her friends and husband, Wes Collman.

Choppers unite in Austin group

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Daily Texan Staff
On weekdays, Diane Collman teaches third grade at Florence Elementary School. On the weekends she leads the Austin Motorcycle Riders Group on trips through Central Texas.

She said there's nothing like winding down on the weekend by riding through the twisting Hill Country roads on a motorcycle. "You go out on the hills and it's so pretty and relaxing," Collman said. "Everything else just disappears."

The group began in June 2006 after founder Gregg Burger realized Austin did not have a meetup for recreational motorcycle riders. He then began the group with the help of Collman.

There are no dues and no officers, just a come-and-go-as-you-please way for those who love to ride to meet up with other bikers on the weekend, Burger said. Riders check for weekend excursions online and become a registered rider of the group.

About 20 riders showed up for the first couple of months, but after putting out business cards in bike shops and advertising on Craigslist, the meetup group grew to become the second largest in the country, Burger said. There were 876

registered Austin riders as of mid-September. "I call them weekend warriors," Burger said. "A lot of these people are lawyers, doctors — have regular jobs on the weekdays — but no time to ride until the weekend comes."

A rider can wait four months between showing up at rides and no one thinks anything of it,

It was not until a few years ago that Collman's interest returned to bikes when she and her husband signed up for a motorcycle safety course in Hutto. Her first bike was a blue and black Yamaha 650 V-star, though both she and her husband have traded up for bigger bikes since then. "I was missing my horses, but horses are expensive," Collman

by for a rougher crowd discourages women, Collman said.

It's a hobby not without its risks, though. A couple of years ago, she saw through her rearview mirror her husband slide on gravel on the corner of a turn and his bike flew out from under him. His knee tore open and he was sent to the emergency room shortly after the fall.

Witnessing the accident made her more cautious, but at the same time she knows the more she rides, the more practice she will get maneuvering her bike and learning to stay attentive, Collman said.

With a baby on the way, Collman doesn't plan on putting a halt to her riding. If anything, the baby is coming along with her.

"People think I'm crazy when they find out," Collman said. "There's always going to be a risk, and all I can do is be careful. That baby's going to grow up on a bike."

The group also goes on camping excursions and to rallies both in and out of the state.

Although the group has only seen a few college students come out to ride, Burger said the group is open to all ages and interested students can go online to the Austin Motorcycle Riders Group meetup page to see upcoming events.

"I was never a girly-girl, and if I wasn't on a horse or a bike, I was four-wheeling."
— Diane Collman, Third grade teacher

Burger said.

Collman's interest in biking began when she was a student at Leander High School. Although horses were her main passion then, she often went dirt-bike riding with the boys on ranches and farms.

"Especially when it was muddy — those were the best times to go dirt bike riding," Collman said. "I was never a girly-girl, and if I wasn't on a horse or a bike, I was four-wheeling. It was normal for my family to see me come home covered in mud."

said. "I saw bikes as the next cheapest therapy."

The majority of the riders who show up at the meetups are male, and it's a funny feeling sometimes being the only woman leading a pack of men, Collman said. Occasionally there will be a couple riders sore about being led by a woman, but they are usually genial about it, she said.

While she sees plenty of ladies on the backs of bikes with someone else driving, the old stigma of motorcycle riding as a male hob-

BRAID

Developer reveals puzzle platformer at Fantastic Fest

By Ao Meng
Daily Texan Staff

Jon Blow is a San Francisco-based video game developer, known for his groundbreaking 2007 title "Braid," one of the first indie games to not only garner mainstream critical praise but also to become a runaway blockbuster hit. "Braid's" mind-bending, puzzle-platforming marriage of time-warping gameplay and impressionistic storytelling substantially pushed forward the emerging discussion of games as art. Blow is in town this week to give a series of panels at Fantastic Arcade, an independent games festival running parallel to the first four days of Fantastic Fest.

In "Braid," the player takes control of Tim, a little man in a black suit who can rewind time to correct past mistakes. Interestingly, the puzzle element and the platforming element were developed separately. His first inspiration for time-oriented gameplay arose out of the complete waste of time revealed as "The Matrix Reloaded."

"The idea was that you'd see in these movies people who are supposed to see the future, but the character would act nothing at all like a person with those abilities," Blow said. "So I thought that video games would be an interesting way to experiment with that."

This line of thinking led Blow to create a game prototype called "Oracle Billiards." The conceit was that even if in a pool game the player could see where all the balls would end up, there is still an ele-

WHAT: "Jonathan Blow meets Nacho Vigalondo"

WHERE: Fantastic Arcade at The Highball, 1142 S. Lamar Blvd.

WHEN: Today; 4:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Badge only

ment of strategy in the positioning. But "Billiards" is more of a physics toy than a game — there were too many variables to expect the player to process, which would butterfly-effect off each other to unpredictable results.

"I wanted to do something with simpler rules, but still took place in a continuous time and space," Blow said. "Platformers were just something that instantly jumped to the top of my head."

Gamers have an instant grasp of the vocabulary of platformers: the run-right, avoid-the-spikes and jump-on-the-enemy's-head-to-kill-them elements have been long ingrained into the popular consciousness thanks to the iconic work of games like "Super Mario Bros."

"If the player was going to see the time-travel stuff and have the puzzles be clear, the game world needed to be really simple and understandable. Platformers provide an easy read of situations in your head," Blow said. "So when I take this understanding, but add the dimension of time on top of that, it would get much more interesting

BRAID continues on page 9



Courtesy of Braid
Jonathan Blow, a game developer best known for his indie-turned-popular game, "Braid," will be at this weekend's Fantastic Arcade at The Highball.

Exercise found to likely strengthen mental functioning



By Addie Anderson

Editor's note: This is the second installment of a weekly column that explores topics in health.

Hours spent at the gym doing

cardio and strength training may not only improve your body, but your brain, too. Research has shown that physical activity can increase cognitive function in childhood and later in adulthood.

Physical activity is known to help prevent heart disease, obesity and hypertension. As people age, brain functions such as attention, memory and concentration decrease, becoming much slower and ineffi-

cient. This is because of cell loss in the brain. An article on physical activity and the risk of cognitive decline published by the Journal of Internal Medicine cites many studies such as one on physical activity and cognitive function in older women and another on physical activity and the risk of neurodegenerative disease showing that people who are physically active throughout their lives generally have better

cognitive performance during their later years.

In a 2010 review of physical activity and risk of cognitive decline published in the Journal of Internal Medicine, researchers from various studies found that subjects who performed a high level of physical activity were significantly protected against cognitive decline. They also found that analysis of low-to-moderate levels of exercise also showed a significant protection against cognitive impairment.

Gene Burd, a 78-year-old associate professor of journalism, walks 3 1/2 miles to and from school every day. Burd is still up and about, teaching classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He attributes some of his mental sharpness to his physical activity. Not

only does Burd walk upwards of 7 miles each day, he also does push-ups, knee bends and always takes the stairs to his seventh floor office.

"From personal experience I notice a big difference in my thinking and spirit," Burd said. "Some days I don't get a lot of exercise and I notice a difference."

Exercise does not only benefit the minds of older adults. A recent study out of the University of Illinois showed that children's physical activity level might affect their brains as well. Children who were highly fit, which was dependent on aerobic fitness level, had greater cognitive control and response resolution.

Although exercise does not add to adolescents' IQs as it may do for children, physical activity has its

perks for young adults, too.

Darla Castelli, associate professor of kinesiology, said that physical fitness has also been associated with better academic achievement in students.

"Between the ages of 20 and 27, humans are at their cognitive peak," Castelli said. "Using physical activity to relieve stress, thus creating a positive environment, can facilitate cognitive performance."

Castelli said the effects of physical activity on cognitive function form the shape of an inverted U when graphed. If the intensity of exercise is too high or too low, the individual may not perform as well on a cognitive task while engaged in or immediately after exercise of that intensity.

EXERCISE continues on page 9

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Jono Foley | Daily Texan Staff

UT students exercise in the swimming pool at Gregory Gym Thursday afternoon. Studies done by the Journal of Internal Medicine have found that subjects who perform high levels of physical activity are significantly protected against cognitive decline.